

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00
/031 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AN:RABROWN:LR
APPROVED BY EB/OA/:MHSTYLES
CAB:JHORNEMAN
EA/TIMBS:MEASTON
-----049313 182233Z /73
O 182157Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013968

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, SN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FLYING TIGER OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0259

1. FTL TERMINATES FLIGHT 45 IN HONG KONG BECAUSE THE
PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT (THERE IS NO AIR SERVICES
AGREEMENT; IT WAS ABROGATED BY THE FILIPINOS IN 1959)
PLACES A RESTRICTION IN THE FTL PERMIT WHICH DOES NOT
ALLOW THEM TO GO TO SINGAPORE VIA MANILA. FLIGHT 45
IS ROUTED FROM THE UNITED STATES TO TOKYO, MANILA
(3 TIMES A WEEK) AND HONG KONG AND IS THE BACKBONE
OF FTL'S PACIFIC SERVICE. THE FACT THAT THE COMPANY
CHANGES THE FLIGHT NUMBER IN HONG KONG TO 48, WHICH
INDICATES IT IS A RETURN FLIGHT TO THE US, IS TO GET
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AROUND THE PHILIPPINE RESTRICTION. THIS IS PURELY A
COSMETIC CHANGE WHICH MIGHT HAVE A REAL BEARING ON
PASSENGER FLIGHTS BUT HAS NONE AT ALL IN REGARD
TO CARGO OPERATIONS. THE PRINCIPLE OF CARGO ROUTE
FLEXIBILITY IS UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED BECAUSE ALL
EXPERIENCED AVIATION COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THAT CARGO
HAS DIFFERENT OPERATING REQUIREMENTS THAN THOSE

WHICH APPLY TO PASSENGERS.

2. FTL VIEWS THE GOS ACTION AS AN HARASSMENT BASED ON SIA'S DESIRE TO PENETRATE A MARKET ORIGINATED AND DEVELOPED BY US CARRIERS.

----- SIA, BEING A NEWCOMER IN THIS MARKET, WILL HAVE TO SPEND ITS OWN RESOURCES TO ACQUIRE SOME OF THE EXISTING MARKET OR TO BUILD A NEW MARKET RATHER THAN HAVING THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE UNILATERALLY AND WITHOUT LEGAL BASIS TAKE IT FROM FTL.

3. THEREFORE, THE PROBLEM AS THE DEPARTMENT SEES IT IS THAT GOS AND SIA ARE DRAGGING A RED HERRING INTO THIS MATTER WHERE NONE SHOULD EXIST. WHAT DISTURBS THE DEPARTMENT IS THAT DESPITE RECONCILIATION OF EARLIER DIFFERENCES. THERE NOW CREEPS IN, EVEN PRIOR TO FINAL RATIFICATION, A PETTY ISSUE. THIS DOES NOT BODE WELL FOR FUTURE

AVIATION RELATIONS. DEPARTMENT REGRETS THAT THIS IMPASSE HAS ARISEN BUT, NEVERTHELESS, THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED IS PARAMOUNT AND IN ORDER TO STABILIZE OUR AVIATION RELATIONSHIP IT IS BEST TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE NOW BEFORE IT REACHES ANY GREATER MAGNITUDE. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE013968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RABROWN:LR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0863
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780149/aaaaboth.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ef83be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SINGAPORE 259
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3752458
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: FLYING TIGER OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE
TAGS: EAIR, SN, US
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ef83be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014